GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3122
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
NRIS GIFT FOR KARGIL SOLDIERS
TARUN GOGOI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Consul-General in Chicago and Indian Ambassador in Washington have refused to take gifts for Kargil Soldiers from the NRIs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to all Indian Embassies/High Commissions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The Indian Consul General in Chicago and Indian Ambassador in Washington have not refused to receive gifts for Kargil soldiers from the NRIs. Throughout the Kargil crisis, the Embassy and Consulate remained in close contact with the Indian community through the various associations, to disseminate information and co-ordinate action regarding receipt and despatch of contributions for families of Kargil soldiers.

(c), (d) & (e) Standard Government policy in times of national crisis is not to solicit help but accept voluntary contributions. In keeping with this policy, our Embassies and Consulates abroad accepted contributions from Non-resident Indians for Kargil soldiers. These were passed on to designated recipients such as Prime Minister`s Relief Fund, the National Defence Fund and the Army Central Welfare Fund as soon as they were received.